

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 CU-04 /093 W
-----127934 121319Z /50

R 120951Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6466
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, GE, GW
SUBJECT: GDR CLOSES SPIEGEL OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN.

REF: BERLIN 202 AND PREVIOUS.

1. ON THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 10 THE GDR FOREIGN
MINISTRY NOTIFIED THE EDITORS OF DER SPIEGEL THAT ITS
OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN WOULD BE CLOSED, EFFECTIVE IMMEDI-
ATELY. THE REASONS GIVEN WERE THAT DER SPIEGEL HAD
MALICIOUSLY SLANDERED THE GDR AND ITS ALLIES AND DELIBER-
ATELY ATTEMPTED TO POISON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND
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THE FRG. PARTICULAR STRESS WAS PLACED ON THE "SLANDERING"
OF LEADING PERSONALITIES OF THE GDR. ACCORDING TO NEUES
DEUTSCHLAND OF JANUARY 11, THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY
REJECTED AN FRG PROTEST AGAINST THE CLOSING OF THE SPIEGEL
OFFICE. THE MFA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTEDLY POINTED OUT TO
FRG PERMREP GAUS THAT THE FRG CANNOT EVADE ITS RESPONSIB-
ILITY FOR PREVENTING SLANDEROUS ACTIVITIES, WHICH ARE

DIRECTED AGAINST DETENTE AND NORMALIZATION.

2. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND CONTINUES IN ITS EDITION OF JANUARY 11 TO RECOUNT INCIDENTS WHERE DER SPIEGEL CORRESPONDENTS HAVE BEEN REFUSED ACCREDITATION OR THROWN OUT OF OTHER COUNTRIES. ON THE SAME PAGE OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND WHICH CARRIES THE SPIEGEL MATERIAL THERE ARE TWO SMALL ITEMS REPORTING THAT NEGOTIATING SESSIONS ON A VETERINARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR TOOK PLACE IN BERLIN ON JANUARY 10 AND ON A TRANSPORTATION PROJECT IN SOUTHERN WEST BERLIN BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE SENAT, AND THAT FURTHER SESSIONS ARE PLANNED IN FEBRUARY.

3. THE JANUARY 11 FOREIGN AFFAIRS WEEKLY HORIZONT CARRIES A LONG STORY ON CIA INVOLVEMENT IN USE OF THE MASS MEDIA. THE CIA STORY APPEARS TO BE LARGELY DRAWN FROM US PUBLISHED SERVICES. IN A LEAD NOTE, PREPARED BY THE EDITORS OF HORIZONT, A CLEAR ASSOCIATION BETWEEN CIA AND FRG INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IS ALLEGED. IT STATES FOR EXAMPLE THAT OF ALL IMPERIALIST SECRET SERVICES, THE FRG INTELLIGENCE AGENCY COOPERATES MOST CLOSELY WITH THE CIA. IT CONCLUDES WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES DISTORT AND MAKE DIFFICULT THE WORK OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE WITH NEEDLESS NONSENSE IN AN EFFORT TO PLAY THE PART OF ADVOCATE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, THE DIGNITY OF MAN AND HUMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. COMMENT: THE CLOSING OF THE SPIEGEL OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN REPRESENTS A FURTHER ESCALATION IN THE GDR'S RESPONSE TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE MANIFESTO. HOWEVER, THE PUBLICATION OF THE ITEMS ON THE ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THE SPIEGEL AFFAIR NOTWITHSTANDING, THE GDR HOPES TO SEE A CONTINUATION OF BUSINESS AS USUAL. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERLIN00238
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780018-0427
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780169/aaaacgqz.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ad3afce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BERLIN 202
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3783597
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR CLOSES SPIEGEL OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN.
TAGS: PGOV, GC, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ad3afce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014